

SMUG

BYTES

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SINCLAIR MILWAUKEE USERS GROUP
P.O. Box 101 Butler, WI 53007

THIS MONTH:

- Bill On QL "C" Both Types
- Quantum Computing -?????-
- Rudy With "SQ Notes"
- Presidents Message
- And Other Great Things

If any articles are copied
please credit SMUG Bytes

NEXT MEETING DATE: 01/04/89

Send all contributions by the
first day of the month to:

Bill Heberlein
Editor

SMUG BYTES

5052 N. 91st Street.
Milwaukee, WI 53225

1988 OFFICERS & WORKING MEMBERS

All Area Codes Are 414

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* - 353 4522
- *V. Pres. - W. Heberlein
* - 527 2191
- *Secretary - L. Dreger
* - 321 0694
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- *- Sub Group Leaders
- *Games - N. Schultz
* - 353 4522
- *Meeting on 3rd Sat. of the month*
- *Hardware - G. Kraemer
* - 421 0179
- *No set date. Call for info.
- *Spectrum - R. Hilsmann
* - 251 5291
- *Meeting on 3rd Wed. of the month*
- *"C" - R. Cultice
* - 542 3591
- *Meeting on 2nd Sun. of the month*
- *QL - R. Hilsmann
* - 251 5291
- *Meeting date see Spectrum group *

(NOTE NEITHER ANY AUTHOR OR SMUG BYTES TAKES ANY RESPONSIBILITY
FOR ANY HARDWARE MODIFICATIONS TO YOUR EQUIPMENT.)

WHAT'S UP WITH QUANTUM COMPUTING? CAN YOU GET YOUR MONEY BACK?

By Bill Heberlein

Well SMUG members ordered 9 QL's from Quantam Computing in December 1987. By February of 1988 we had only received 6. After many calls and letters, with no answer, I called the BBB. They told me to get in touch with the New Jersey BBB. I had contacted the Postal Athorities but they said they could not do anything. The New Jersey BBB tried to contact Mr. Tomei with no results. They also contacted the New Jersey Attorney General. Then after many months of "If you hear anything contact us"

Letters, I received this notice from the United States Bankruptcy Court: Mr. Tomei, Jr. has applied for bankruptcy and will be free of debt after February 6, 1989. He lists his assets as .01 cent and his debts as \$61,933.05 dollars. It looks like the last 3 QL's will never arrive.

At the Cleveland fest we found out there were others waiting for merchandise and larger amounts. If anyone else has a claim contact: Jonathan Kohn, 1180 Raymond Blvd., Newark, NJ 07102-4107.

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"SQ" NOTES

BY R.A.HILSMANN

For this month lets check some of the other fine points of SINCLAIR BASIC not covered in the TIMEX MANUAL, and then some:

I'm certain you know that everything that an INPUT statement writes goes to the bottom part of the screen, which acts somewhat independently of the top half. In particular, its lines are numbered relative to the top line of the bottom half, even if this has moved up the actual screen display (which it does if you type lots of INPUT data).

To see how AT works in INPUT statements, try running this:

```
10 INPUT "This is line 1.",A$; AT
0,0;"This is line 2.",A$; AT 1,0;
"This is still line 1.",A$
```

(just press ENTER each time it stops.) When 'This is line 2.' is printed, the lower part of the screen moves up to make room for it; but the position numbering moves up as well, so that the lines of text keep their same numbers.

Now try this:

```
10 FOR n=0 TO 19: PRINT AT n,0;n::
NEXT n
20 INPUT AT 0,0;A$; AT 1,0;A$; AT
2,0;A$; AT 3,0;A$; AT 4,0;A$; AT
5,0;A$;
```

As the lower part of the screen goes up and up, the upper part is undisturbed until the lower part threatens to write to the same position as the lowest PRINT line of the upper screen. The upper part starts scrolling up to avoid this.

Another refinement to the INPUT statement which can not be found in any MANUAL is; if you for instance wish to have an INPUT line which instead of INPUT "text";A\$, has a string in place of the text (which

could allow you to READ such text from a DATA line). You probably have found out that a line;

```
INPUT T$;A$
```

does not work. All this would accomplish, is, to let you INPUT two times, ones to T\$, and ones to A\$, but if you use instead:

```
INPUT VAL$ "T$";A$
```

T\$ will show up as text. Try this for instance:

```
10 RESTORE 40: DIM A$(6,10)
20 FOR x=1 TO 6: READ T$: INPUT
"Enter "; VAL$ "T$";" item ";A$(x)
30 NEXT x
40 DATA "first","second","third",
"fourth","fifth","sixth"
```

Another way, more complex yet, would be an INPUT like this:

```
INPUT "This is the " FLASH 1; VAL$
"T$"; FLASH 0;" item of the MENU'S"
VAL$ "D$";" line"; AT 3,10;"choice
";LINE A$
```

where D\$ could be DATA READ from a second item in the DATA LINE, referring to text lines in the top screen, or anything else. The possibility of text entry in an INPUT statement is therefore unlimited, especially since the lower screen is addressed just like the upper screen. TAB, AT, INK, PAPER, FLASH and INVERSE can be used at will. Now would an IBM let you do this??

Did you know that the control characters CHR\$ 22 and CHR\$ 23 have effects like AT and TAB? They are rather odd as control characters, because whenever one is sent to the screen to be printed, it must be followed by two more characters that do not have there usual effect: they are treated as numbers (their codes) to specify the line and column (for AT) or the tab position (for TAB). You will almost always find it easier to use AT or

TAB in the usual way rather than the control characters, but they might be useful in some circumstances. The AT control character is CHR\$ 22. The first character after specifies the line number and the second the column number of course, so that

```
PRINT CHR$ 22+CHR$ 1+CHR$ c;
```

has exactly the same effect as

```
PRINT AT 1,c;
```

This is so even if CHR\$ 1 or CHR\$ c would normally have a different meaning (for instance if c=13); the CHR\$ 22 before them overrides that.

The TAB control character is CHR\$ 23 and the two characters after it are used to give a number between 0 and 65535 specifying the number you would have in a TAB item:

```
PRINT CHR$ 23+CHR$ a+CHR$ b;
```

has the same effect as

```
PRINT TAB a+256*b;
```

Lets talk some more about efficient programming! I'm sure you have heard about most of this, but lets review anyways.

Subroutines; should be near the start of your program, since the computer searches for them from the beginning of the program area.

This is also true for FOR/NEXT loops.

Define often used variables near the start of your program, the computer searches for variables also from the beginning of the variable area.

SGN PI, VAL, Variables etc. need extra time to be evaluated by the operating system, and should only be used in lines where the program doesn't require speed.

REM lines will have to be passed when searching for a GO TO or GOSUB line and will slow down a program.

Sometimes it becomes necessary to save memory and the use of variables, VAL etc. is one option considered. Before changing all numbers to VAL strings, consider to check all your text first, to see where TOKENS could be used instead.

If a lot of conditional statements are to be checked for an occasional true occurrence, see if a line like the one below could be entered into the program flow

```
1050 IF condition>3 THEN IF  
condition<20 THEN GO TO 30
```

where at line 30 all the rest of the conditional statements could be checked, but only when such conditions are true. I hope you get the drift of what I mean by this, in other words think and evaluate all you enter for speed and memory usage, it may surprise you how much shorter and more efficient a program may become after applying some of the above.

Another factor to speed up program execution; use THEN IF wherever you would normally use AND. Point in case; line 155 in my FILE0 MENU LOADER, published here some time ago.

```
155 IF Q=50 AND J>VAL "20" THEN  
LET K=K-VAL "380":
```

If Q is not 50, one would assume that the system would quit checking the rest of the line, not so, but then you probably know what happens when one assumes, ever heard about it? "Assume makes an ASS out of U & ME, well it sure will in SINCLAIR BASIC, and it's even worse in TIMEX BASIC, but more about it next time. Just replace AND in my MENU LOADER on line 155 in the meantime with THEN IF and notice the difference.

This should do it again for this month, and also this year, hope you had a good year, and you will have an even better 1989.

yours truly, Rudy.

OL "C"

There are two major "C"'s for the QL. The Lattece and the Metacompco and each has it's advantages. The Lattece is cheaper and Metacompco is more complete as it comes with a larger library and an excellent editor.

Those of us who are learning "C" have tried both. The Lattece "C" contains routines that are QL only specific. I.e; Paper, Ink and others. The drawbacks to using these are,

the object program, the program after compiling, is no longer transferable to other computers. IBM, MACINTOSH etc.

THE DIGITIZER

Well Dick and Marty demo'ed the digitizer at the December meeting and it was a success. I have included some samples. SMUG will sell the board, parts and doc. to any intersted Sinclair person.



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OOPS

I goofed. The following changes should be made to the phone list. Lloyd Dreger's phone # is 321-0694

Nolte Fridtjof's exchange is 608 not 414

Denis Nickle's name is spelled incorrectly. S/B Denis Nickle.

Ed Pawlowski's name is spelled incorrectly. S/B Ed Pawlowski.

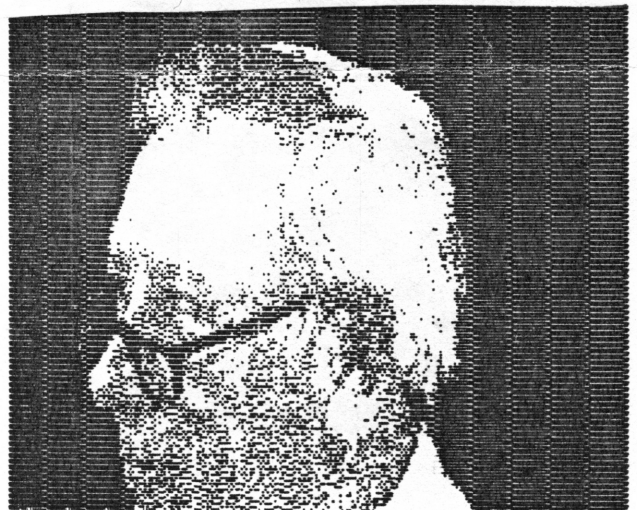
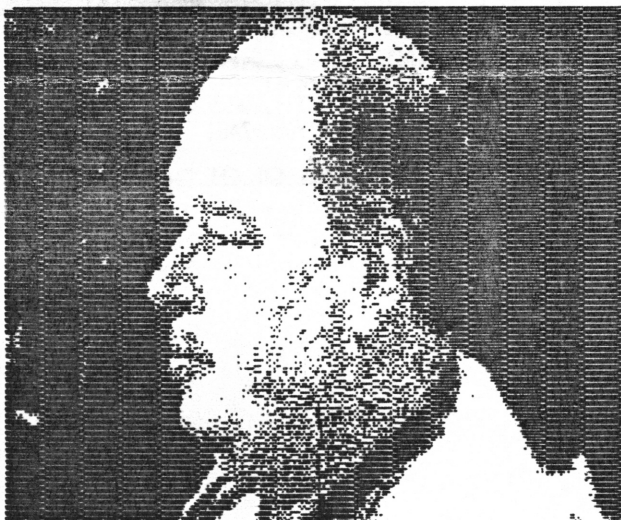
John Schram's phone # is 464-8109

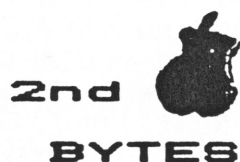
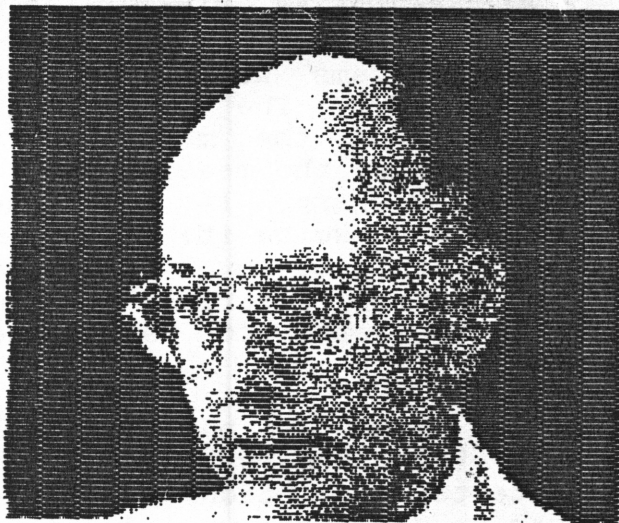
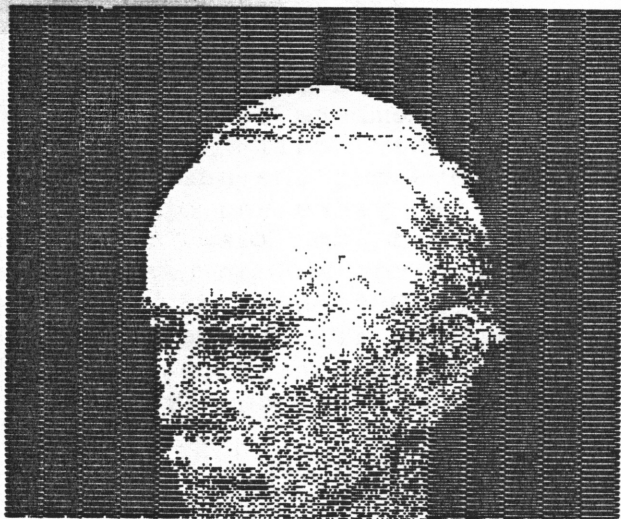
I missed Pancho's number completely. Here it is:
Doneis, Armin (Pancho)
(414) 344-4694

The pictures in order, left to right and top to bottom, are:

Ed Pawlowski, Neal, Poncho, Bill, Dick, Lloyd, and Gordy.

Start with page 5.





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WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

Three major items were discussed concerning SMUG. The first was starting time of the meeting. It was decided that the meetings will start at 7:30 sharp. If only one member is there so be it. This is a notice that to be involved in the meetings show up before 7:30 and bring your system for show and tell.

The second item of business was dues. At the January meeting we will entertain a motion to raise the dues to \$20. This will do three things:

1. Cover the cost of mailing the newsletter to each member.
2. Cover printing costs of the newsletter.
3. All members of your family will be members of SMUG.

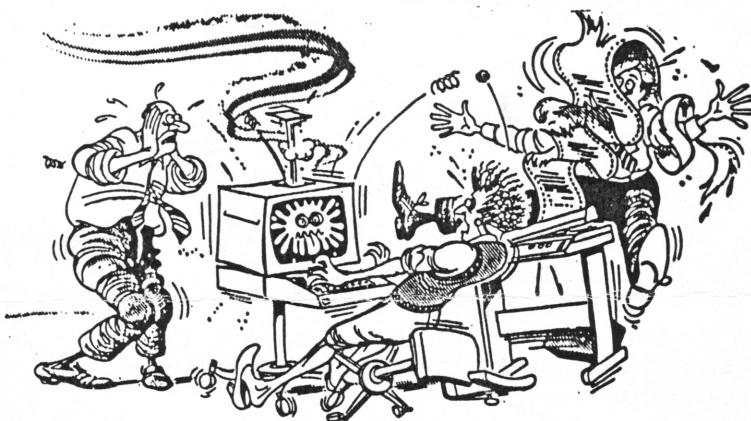
The last item was a nominating

committee. Denis & Ed volunteered to contact members to run for the Board. If they call "PLEASE" say YES. We have had the same board for the last two years and others must get involved to keep the club moving forward. We can use members running for Officers and Board Of Directors. In all there are four Officers: President, Vice President Secretary and Treasurer.

There are four other elected Board Of Directors that must be elected. And to insure there are no ties one other member is asked to the meeting as a Member at large.

We definately need a Treasurer as Judy, our treasurer for the last four years, said she would not run again. Neal has been the President for all but one year and would like a break. Lloyd would like you to go for Secretary and I don't have to be VP. So RUN!!!!

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